

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 canceled.

22. (new) A housing for use in an anesthesia scavenging apparatus, said apparatus comprising a vacuum source for withdrawing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient from the ambient atmosphere, said housing comprising a tube having a length dimension, said tube being detachably attachable to said vacuum source, said tube having an outlet for attachment to said vacuum source, and a plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension, for the reception and ingress of said anesthetic gas to be withdrawn from said ambient atmosphere, having a plurality of vents and an outlet; a vacuum source connected to the outlet; and means for positioning the housing proximate to a patient's mouth.

23. (new) The housing of claim 22, wherein the length dimension of said tube is linear in appearance and comprises two closed ends, with said outlet positioned centrally between said closed ends, so that a T-shaped appearance is generally defined.

24. (new) The housing of claim 23, wherein said length dimension is extended and defines an arcuate shape, and said housing further comprises fasteners located at said closed ends of the tube for attaching the closed ends together to secure said tube about a patient's neck.

25. (new) The housing of claim 23, further comprising a band interconnectable with said closed ends for supporting the tube about a patient's neck.

26. (new) The housing of claim 24, further comprising a band interconnectable with said fasteners for supporting the tube about a patient's neck.
27. (new) The housing of claim 23 wherein the tube is rigid.
28. (new) The housing of claim 22 wherein the length dimension of said tube is circular or O-shaped and possesses an outer circumference, and said outlet is positioned at one point on said circumference.
29. (new) An anesthesia scavenging system, comprising; a collar with at least one vent, the collar comprising said housing in accordance with claim 22, and sized to be positioned about a patient's neck; and a vacuum source in fluid communication with the collar.
30. (new) The system of claim 29 wherein the collar comprises a tube.
31. (new) The system of claim 30 wherein the tube has closed ends.
32. (new) The system of claim 30 wherein the tube has closed ends and is secured about a patient's neck by releasably interconnectable tabs.
33. (new) The system of claim 30 wherein the tube has closed ends and is retained about a patient's neck by a strap.
34. (new) The system of claim 29 wherein a vacuum line connecting the collar with the vacuum source is interconnected with a nasal mask vacuum line.

35. (new) The system of claim 34 further comprising a tee which connects the vacuum line from the collar to the nasal mask vacuum line, and connects both vacuum lines to a vacuum source.

36. (new) A method of removing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient being nasally administered an anesthetic gas comprising: placing a housing in accordance with claim 22 in proximity to the mouth of a patient; connecting the perforated housing to a vacuum source; and applying a vacuum to the housing to remove exhaled anesthetic gas from proximity to the mouth of the patient.

37. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the housing comprises a continuous tube and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises placing the continuous tube over a patient's head to rest about a patient's neck.

38. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the housing comprises a tube with closed ends and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises positioning the tube about a patient's neck and interconnecting the ends.

39. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises suspending the housing about a patient's neck using a strap connected to the housing.

40. (new) The method of claim 36 wherein the housing comprises a tube and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprising draping the tube over a patient's chest and shoulder.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the step of connecting the perforated housing to a vacuum source comprises connecting the housing to a nasal mask vacuum line.